

The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church.
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As we approach the final days of Advent, the journey we've taken through the themes of hope, peace, and joy leads us now to the radiant light of love. Each week, as we light another candle on the Advent wreath, we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth. The four candles on the wreath represent significant aspects of the Christian faith that we are preparing to embrace more deeply in our hearts: hope, peace, joy, and love.

But what does it mean, truly, to light the fourth candle—the candle of love? Love is, perhaps, the most profound of these Advent themes. It is not merely a fleeting emotion or a worldly concept, but the very essence of God's heart revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. As we light the candle of love, we are called to reflect not just on God's love for us, but also on how we are to love others in His name.

***Join us for the most beautiful service of the year –
Our candlelight Christmas Eve service with Communion.
5:00 – 5:55 PM Christmas Eve***



God's Love: The Source of All Love

The foundation of all love begins with God. The Apostle John reminds us in 1 John 4:10, *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”* In this simple yet profound verse, we are confronted with the beautiful truth: Love does not originate with us—it is a gift from God’s own heart.

In Advent, we remember that God’s love is not abstract or distant, but tangible and real. It was in the very act of sending His Son into the world that love took on flesh. God did not leave us to struggle alone with our pain, suffering, or sin. He entered into our world, our story, and our brokenness. Jesus, the incarnation of divine love, came to show us what it looks like to live, to heal, and to sacrifice in love.

In this season of waiting, the light of the fourth candle shines forth as a reminder of how deeply God loves each one of us. The nativity story itself is a testament to this love. Picture the scene: a young virgin mother, a humble carpenter, and a helpless infant lying in a manger—all at the center of a universe-altering act of love. There is no grandeur in the moment, no pomp or circumstance, but the love of God shines brightly through the simplicity of that holy night.

Love, in its purest form, does not demand recognition or glory; it simply gives. And this is the love that is most vividly displayed in Christ’s birth. He came to give, not to take—to serve, not to be served. His love is not transactional; it is sacrificial. His love is not conditional; it is unearned. The Christ child is the embodiment of a love that knows no limits, no boundaries, no end.

But love is not something we are merely meant to receive. God’s love compels us to reflect it back into the world. 1 John 4:11 tells us, *“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”*

Advent season beckons us to consider how we are living out the love we have received. The fourth candle is a challenge to embody the love of Christ in our relationships—whether with family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers. Advent is not just about anticipating the arrival of Jesus; it is also about preparing our hearts to love as He loves.

Consider how Christ’s love reached across social boundaries, broke down barriers, and extended grace to those who were marginalized, oppressed, and rejected. Jesus did not reserve His love for the righteous or the worthy. His love was extended to everyone, especially the least and the lost. The fourth candle calls us to do the same.

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

December 17, 2024

Rev. Lynwood Wells, Pastor

Special Note— We will not be sending out a Forecast Next week because of the Christmas Holiday. We will send one New Year's Week. May you and your family have a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior!

Budge \$2835.00

Designated Offering—Quilters Guild Use of Church \$500.00

Lottie Moon \$1770.00

Cashin Cashout— Sonshine Kids \$45.00

Cashin Cashout-Coffee Fund \$3.01

Food Pantry \$5.00

Pure Water Pure Love \$25.00

Total Deposit \$5183.01

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting International Missions. Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board's overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work. Collected to date \$2595.00

Schedules

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

12/22 Joe Caskie

12/29 Roger Cooke

Counter

12/23 Margaret Upole

12/30 Kathy Caskie

Kids Church

12/22 Debra Sinks

12/29 Tracy Venable



HBC 100th Anniversary Mugs

We have lots of the Anniversary Mugs available to anyone that wants them. They are located in the Connection Center. Take as many as you would like.

Happy Birthday in December

12/19 Jessica Surber
12/20 Joyce Spiers
12/25 Karen Simpson
12/27 Myra Ntungia
12/30 Brenda Egnot

Calendar

Tuesday, December 17th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, December 19th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 22nd

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Tuesday, December 24th

NO FOOD DISTRIBUTION

5:00pm Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25th

Merry Christmas

Thursday, December 26th

NO FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Friday, December 27th

5:30– 6:30pm

Community Dinner

Full Food Distribution

Free and open to public

Sunday, December 29th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids– Crazy Hair and Hat Day for Kids

Full Food Distribution– Free and open to the public.



Kids Church This Sunday

December 22nd- Crazy Hair

Sunday Do something crazy with your hair or wear a special crazy hat it will be so much fun!

Missions Outreach

***If you have any questions on Missions Outreach Activities
call Pam Cooke 757-660-4226***

Pray for our Missionaries

TG (Asian Pacific Rim People) EC, LM (Central Asian People) MG. Alexandria Garcia (European People) JC (South Asian People) HF, MS, TS (Sub-Saharan African People) Jason Mayo (CA) Trandy Wade (FL) Tae Hwang (IL) Arturo Villa (NM) Garner Macalisang (ON) Phuong Phan (VA)

December's Community Dinner is Friday, December 27th

Journey Church is preparing the meal but we can use help in the Food Distribution and in clean up. Please see Pam Cooke to help with dinner clean up and Tara Borton to help with the Food Bank.

WMU Mission Project for December Grace Inside's chaplains are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. The chaplains provide one-on-one pastoral care, conduct worship services and work with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. Chaplains are also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions.

PORT— PORT Our week of PORT is January 15th—the morning of January 22nd, 2025. The sheets to sign up to help are located in the back of the church. Please take time to stop by and sign up to work. We need everyone to be a part as we reach out to those who are homeless.

The following are things that we are collecting for the PORT Clothes Closet.

Men's Boxer Briefs , Women's underwear- All sizes, Thermals – All sizes

Socks, Bras- All sizes, Shoes (please no sandals) Men's Coats, Jeans- All sizes

T Shirts- All sizes (it does not matter if it has a print on it) Men's long sleeve shirt's (Medium and Small are needed the most) Women's clothes are not needed at this time.

Serving the Community with the Love of Jesus

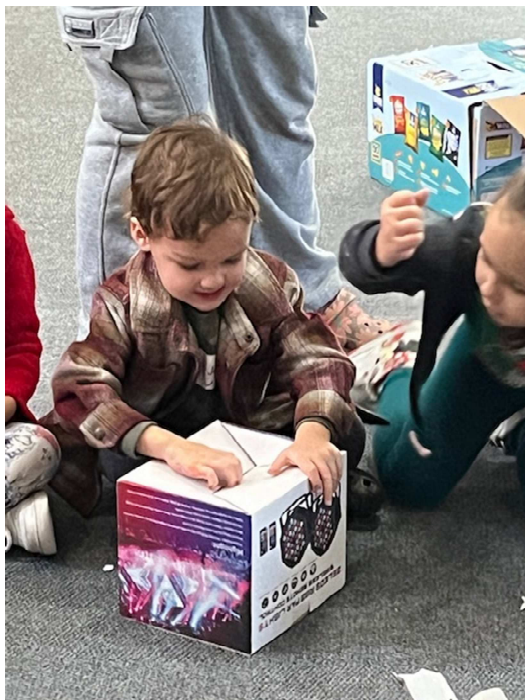


Children's Christmas Workshop!

Everyone had a great time at the workshop!
We had 18 Adult Leaders, 4 teenage helpers,
40 kids with lots of laughter and love all
around!

Thanks to everyone who had a part in anyway
to help this day be the best day ever! It takes
all of us as a Church family to make this Kids
Event a success and I appreciate you so much.

Dreama







Transfer of Rights and Privileges

Transfer of Rights and Privileges

Back in 1891, Robert Louis Stevenson, author of such classics as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Kidnapped*, gave a rather odd gift to the daughter of a friend of his. This friend, Henry Ide, once joked that Christmas was not the happiest day of the year in his household. His 14-year-old daughter, Annie, had been born on Christmas; she always complained she got cheated out of a separate birthday party.

So Robert Louis Stevenson came up with the idea of giving away his birthday. He drew up a legal document transferring all the "rights and privileges" of his birthday, which fell on Nov. 13, to Miss Annie H. Ide. From that day forward, Annie celebrated her birthday on Nov. 13.

Robert Louis Stevenson was not the first to transfer all his "rights and privileges" to someone else. In a sense, Jesus became mortal that He might transfer some of His immortality to us. Jesus became human that He might transfer the spark of divinity to us. Jesus became a servant that He might transfer us to the status of sons and daughters.

Or as the Apostle John put it, *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:2

The Last Impression

There once was a czar in Russia whose name was Rudolph the Great.

He was standing in his house one day with his wife. He looked out the window and saw something happening.

He said to his wife, "Look honey. It's raining."

She, being the stubborn type, responded, "I don't think so, dear. I think it's snowing."

But Rudolph knew better. So he said to his wife, "Let's step outside and we'll find out."

Lo and behold, they stepped outside and discovered it was in fact rain.

And Rudolph turns to his wife and replies, *"I knew it was raining. Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"*





Is Hilton Baptist Church on Your 2024 Christmas Gift List?

As we come to the end of 2024, we have been blessed with both special provisions and special needs. To meet our budget projections, we are believing for a generous outpouring of offerings before December 31st.

As with any older building structure, we are now encountering special needs in our heating and air conditioning systems. Our current estimates for repair and needed replacement of one of our sanctuary AC units is around \$34,000. We need to replace both units in 2025.

But God has been good to us in 2024. Even when we were challenged to pay our regular budgetary needs, we never cut back in ministry and outreach. We continued to plant seed and trusted God for the harvest and He always came through!

Many folks in our HBC family have been hit hard by illness and economic hardships this past year. Yet, overall, as a congregation we have been blessed! Christmas is a time when we remember how God poured His very best into the poverty of our humanity. Because He gave the very best gift He could give, we celebrate our salvation with joy today.

What would God have you do to honor Him as 2024 comes to an end? Ask God to show you, The faith we as a church are willing to demonstrate in December will help set the goals we can aim for in 2025. The harvest of our future is made possible by the seeds of our faith and financial gifts we sow now – Let's celebrate all God has done for us at Christmas by doing all we can for Him!

***Help us to
finish stronger than ever
financially in 2024!***

***Please consider making a
Special year-end gift
Before December 31st***

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp





The Atheist & Christmas

In a recent interview, a well-known atheist was asked about his attitude toward Christmas. He admitted that he celebrated Christmas, but primarily “for family reasons.” Why? Because Christmas “has long since ceased to be a religious festival.” He observed that Christmas has become “divorced” from religion. He had no problem wishing people a Merry Christmas. Why? Because this phrase “retains zero religious significance.”



Every year, many in the culture around us make claims just like this. In fact, Christians face an avalanche of propaganda—pressure to ignore Christ and make Christmas a secular event. But for Believers, Christmas is a reminder of the *central* issues of our faith. Yes, it is a time for gifts and sharing, for family and holiday cheer. But we must not lose sight of the *primary* meaning.

Our focus must remain on *Jesus*. We must never fail to honor and worship Him, to proclaim Him as our Lord, and to realize He was God incarnate, “*born in the likeness of men.*” We must remember how He lived in perfect submission to the Father, how He became our perfect example, how He humbled Himself and died on the Cross for our sins, and how He rose from the dead.

Many in our culture may not understand the reason for His birth. This is why, as Believers, we must use every opportunity to talk about Jesus.

This Christmas, make sure that you are focused on Jesus. Worship Him. Honor Him. And use every opportunity to declare His name!